AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A process for the remote authentication of a user ~~(7)~~ for local access to a local machine ~~(4)~~ of a network ~~(5)~~ having a remote server ~~(3)~~ managed by an administrator ~~(8)~~ and classification means ~~(6)~~ for classifying information, and communication means ~~(9)~~ for connecting the user ~~(7)~~ and the administrator ~~(8)~~ comprising:

creating a challenge (D) capable of being transmitted by the communication means ~~(9)~~, the challenge including information representing the type of challenge;

communicating the challenge (D) ~~created~~ to the administrator ~~(8)~~ together with elements known by the user, via the communication means ~~(9)~~;

performing a first predetermined calculation by means of the server ~~(3)~~ and obtaining a first response (RD) that is a function of at least one of the challenge (D) ~~and/or~~ and of predetermined data;

transmitting to the user ~~(7)~~ the first response (RD);

performing a second calculation by means of the local machine ~~(4)~~ and obtaining a second response (RD1) that is a function of at least one of the challenge (D) ~~and/or~~ and of predetermined data; and

comparing the first response (RD) transmitted by the administrator to the second response (RD1) calculated by the local machine ~~(4)~~ so as to authenticate the user and

locally authorize connection of the user ~~(7)~~ to the local machine ~~(4)~~ based on the result of the comparison.

16. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first predetermined calculation performed by the server ~~(3) consists of~~ comprises modifying, in accordance with a given algorithm, the challenge (D) ~~and/or~~ and at least one of the following pieces of data:

a.) at least one piece of information issued by the classification means and known by the user,

b.) at least one secret shared between the server ~~(3)~~ and the local machine ~~(4)~~, and

c.) at least one element communicated by the user.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second calculation performed by the local machine ~~(4) consists of~~ comprises modifying, in accordance with a given algorithm, the challenge (D) ~~and/or~~ and at least one of the following pieces of data:

a.) at least one secret shared between the server ~~(3)~~ and the local machine ~~(4)~~, and

b.) at least one element communicated by the user.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second calculation performed by the local machine ~~(4) consists of~~ comprises modifying, in accordance with a given algorithm, the challenge (D) ~~and/or~~ at least one of the following pieces of data:

a.) at least one secret shared between the server ~~(3)~~ and the local machine ~~(4)~~, and

b.) at least one element communicated by the user.

19. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret is entered into the server ~~(3)~~ and transmitted to the local machine ~~(4)~~ during a successful network authentication.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret is entered into the server ~~(3)~~ and transmitted to the local machine ~~(4)~~ during a successful network authentication.

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21. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret is entered into the server ~~(3)~~ and transmitted to the local machine ~~(4)~~ during a successful network authentication.

22. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret or secrets, as the case may be, are modified by means of a modification key (C) that depends on the local machine ~~(4)~~, prior to being modified by the algorithm.

23. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the modification key (C) ~~consists of~~ comprises concatenating the secret or a combination of secrets existing in the form of a byte string called a Master Station Secret and

of hashing the byte string obtained through concatenation by means of a calculation algorithm, to obtain a byte string called a Station Secret.

24. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret or secrets, as the case may be, are accompanied by a version number that is incremented each time the secret is modified.

25. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret or secrets, as the case may be, are accompanied by a version number that is incremented each time the secret is modified.

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26. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said at least one shared secret or secrets, as the case may be, are accompanied by a version number that is incremented each time the secret is modified.

27. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the challenge is constituted by a byte string.

28. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the challenge is constituted by a byte string.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to claim 24, characterized in that~~ A process for the remote authentication of a user for local access to a local machine of a

network having a remote server managed by an administrator and classification means for classifying information, and means for connecting the user and the administrator comprising:

creating a challenge (D) capable of being transmitted by the communication means;

communicating the challenge (D) to the administrator together with elements known by the user, via the communication means;

performing a first predetermined calculation by means of the server and obtaining a first response (RD) that is a function of the challenge (D) and/or of predetermined data;

transmitting to the user the first response (RD);

performing a second calculation by means of the local machine and obtaining a second response (RD1) that is a function of the challenge (D) and/or of predetermined data; and

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comparing the first response (RD) transmitted by the administrator to the second response (RD1) calculated by the local machine so as to authenticate the user and locally authorize connection of the user to the local machine based on the result of the comparison,

wherein the first predetermined calculation performed by the server comprises modifying, in accordance with a given algorithm, the challenge (D) and at least one of the following pieces of data:

at least one piece of information issued by the classification means and known by the user,

at least one secret shared between the server and the local machine, and

at least one element communicated by the user; and

said at least one shared secret or secrets, as the case may be, are accompanied by a version number that is incremented each time the secret is modified; and

the challenge ~~is composed of~~ comprises:

a first byte representing the type of challenge, the type of challenge indicating whether a network authentication has been performed;

second and third bytes representing the version number of the shared information; and

random alphanumeric characters of the fourth to twelfth bytes.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to claim 27, characterized in that~~ A process for the remote authentication of a user for local access to a local machine of a network having a remote server managed by an administrator and classification means for classifying information, and means for connecting the user and the administrator comprising:

creating a challenge (D) capable of being transmitted by the communication means;

communicating the challenge (D) to the administrator together with elements known by the user, via the communication means;

performing a first predetermined calculation by means of the server and obtaining a first response (RD) that is a function of the challenge (D) and/or of predetermined data;

transmitting to the user the first response (RD);

performing a second calculation by means of the local machine and obtaining a second response (RD1) that is a function of the challenge (D) and/or of predetermined data; and

comparing the first response (RD) transmitted by the administrator to the second response (RD1) calculated by the local machine so as to authenticate the user and locally authorize connection of the user to the local machine based on the result of the comparison, wherein,

the challenge ~~is composed of~~ comprises:

a byte string, comprising:

a first byte representing the type of challenge, the type of challenge indicating whether a network authentication has been performed;

second and third bytes representing the version number of the shared information; and random alphanumeric characters of the fourth to twelfth bytes.

31. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the response (RD; RD1) is calculated by hashing, in accordance with a calculation algorithm, a character string ~~composed of~~ comprising the concatenation in a predetermined order of the challenge, the character string resulting from the transformation by a calculation algorithm of the user's password, the Station Secret and the user's name.

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32. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the response (RD; RD1) is calculated by hashing, in accordance with a calculation algorithm, a character string ~~composed of~~ comprising the concatenation in a predetermined order of the challenge, a fixed security key CC stored in the local machine ~~(4)~~ and in the server ~~(3)~~, the name of the local machine ~~(4)~~, and the character string resulting from the transformation by a calculation algorithm of the user's password and user name.

33. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the local connection authorized is temporary, the authorized duration of the local connection being configurable.

34. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ further comprising locally authenticating the user ~~(7)~~ after ~~a disconnection by~~ the user ~~(7)~~ authenticated remotely is disconnected from the local machine.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for the remote authentication of a local user ~~(7)~~ for local access to a local machine of a network ~~(5)~~ having a remote server ~~(3)~~ managed by an administrator ~~(8)~~ and containing means ~~(6)~~ for classifying information, comprising communication means ~~(9)~~ for connecting the user ~~(7)~~ with the administrator ~~(8)~~, each local machine ~~(4)~~ comprising a user authentication module ~~(10)~~ that includes a first user module for generating a challenge ~~(11)~~ , the challenge including information representing the type of challenge, and a second user module for calculating a response to the challenge, and the remote server ~~(3)~~ comprising an administrative authentication module ~~(13)~~ for authorizing access by the user to the local machine based on the response generated.